ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5   A method and system are disclosed that provide a significant improvement for

securely selecting a subset of available cryptographic functionality in a system.

This is implemented by using the highest level of cryptography available in a

system to encrypt the system initialization data used to select, enable, disable, or

configure cryptographic features in a crypto chip. The system decrypts the

10   encrypted data by momentarily fully enabling the crypto chip during the boot

process, and using a known, system-unique, and fixed seed to generate the private

key to use for decryption. The seed used is the system's MAC address (L2 LAN

address – medium access control). Alternatively, the system could include a one-

time use decryption-only algorithm in the boot strap code itself.

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